

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: April 21, 2004

Division: County Administrator

Bulk Item: Yes X No

Department: Fire Rescue

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: Approval to waive purchasing policy and issue a Purchase Order to Fisher Scientific, sole source provider for Morning Pride protective ensemble products in the state of Florida, in the amount of \$75,821.17 for the purchase of 61 sets of personal protective ensembles.

ITEM BACKGROUND: Personal protective ensembles (PPE) for structural firefighting, even with limited exposure to fire combat, have a shelf life that renders the thermal and vapor barrier protection ineffective after seven years. We currently have members wearing PPE in excess of twice the shelf life. On July 22, 2003, a request was made to the Board to approve the replacement of one seventh of the PPE annually, which was approved and added to the budget for Fiscal Year 2004, and will require allocations annually thereafter. In 1998, after considerable research and evaluation, the Monroe County Fire Chiefs' Association selected Morning Pride brand PPE as providing the best protection for our personnel with respect to the ambient tropical climate. The sole source provider for this equipment for the state of Florida is Fisher Scientific.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION: On July 22, 2003 the Board approved the replacement of one seventh of the total number of PPE annually. This amount has been budgeted for FY04.

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Approval.

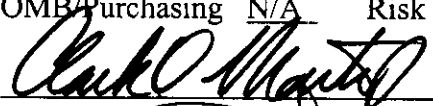
TOTAL COST:	<u>\$ 75,821.17</u>	BUDGETED: Yes <u>X</u> No <u> </u>
DISTRICT 6:	<u>\$ 13,920.00</u>	146-12500-530520
DISTRICT 1:	<u>\$ 61,901.17</u>	141-13001-530520 and 141-11500-530520

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Ad valorem taxes.

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes No X **AMOUNT PER MONTH** **Year**

APPROVED BY: County Atty N/A OMB/Purchasing N/A Risk Management N/A

FIRE CHIEF APPROVAL:


Clark O. Martin, Jr.

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:


James L. Roberts

DOCUMENTATION: Included X To Follow Not Required

DISPOSITION: **AGENDA ITEM #** C2



OFFICE of
FIRE RESCUE
490 63rd Street
Marathon, FL 33050
PHONE: (305) 289-6010
FAX: (305) 289-6336




BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mayor Murray E. Nelson, District 5
Mayor Pro Tem David P. Rice, District 4
Dixie M. Spehar, District 1
George Neugent, District 2
Charles "Sonny" McCoy, District 3

MEMORANDUM

TO: James L. Roberts, County Administrator

FROM: Clark O. Martin, Jr., Fire Chief 
Fire Rescue

SUBJECT: Sole Source Justification for Personal Protective Equipment

DATE: March 30, 2004

In researching the issue of sole source requirement for structural firefighting personal protective ensembles (PPE), I have found that the selection of the Morning Pride brand of PPE was based on an evaluation in 1998 of the several manufacturers of PPE. The result of that evaluation was that the Morning Pride "Tail-Coat" design was the best selection for providing required thermal and vapor protection during structural firefighting while limiting weight in the tropical environment of the Florida Keys. In addition, Morning Pride's design affords a high degree of maneuverability which is equally important.

We are happy with the design and performance of this manufacturer's product, and I see no need to depart from this design. It is unwise to "mix and match" the design and composition of PPE components on an individual firefighter. Moreover, it is important to retain the same design for training purposes, especially given the turnover of personnel.

I will shortly be forwarding a travel request to you to allow my attendance at Fire Rescue International, the annual convention of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. This conference is one of the largest industry trade shows in the nation, and there will be many vendors of PPE displaying the latest technology available. We are always on the lookout for equipment that will better protect our personnel. If I discover something promising, I will return with information for consideration by the newly-formed Apparatus and Equipment Committee. If we find vendors that have developed a better design, I will propose that we rebid the PPE specifications. However, at this point I would recommend not delaying the purchase of this year's round of PPE while a lengthy evaluation period is undertaken.

**Correspondence**

General Offices
P.O. Box 13616
Dayton, OH 45413-0616

Payments

7976 Collections Center Dr.
Chicago, IL 60693

Shipping & Receiving

#1 Innovation Court
Dayton, OH 45414-3967

Pb: (937) 264-2662

Fax: (937) 264-2677

e-mail: info@totalfiregroup.com
www.totalfiregroup.com

March 9, 2004

Monroe County Fire Dept
490 63rd St
Ste 160
Marathon FL 33050

Attn: Chief Pete Lubert

Subject: Distributorship in the State of Florida

Dear Chief Lubert:

This letter is intended to confirm that Fisher Scientific is the only established distributor for Morning Pride protective ensemble products (i.e. clothing, helmets, hoods etc) in the state of Florida.

If you require any further assistance on this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Tammy D. Wells
Inside Marketing Associate

Total Fire Group Mission:

To market unique, high-quality, value-in-use products with an emphasis on quality, innovation, integrity, safety and service.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR Jack London, District 2
MAYOR PRO TEM Wilhelmina Harvey, District 1
Keith Douglass, District 4
Shirley Freeman, District 3
Mary Kay Reich, District 5

FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
Marathon Gov't Annex Bldg.
490 - 63rd St., Ocean, Ste. 160
Marathon, FL 33050
(305) 289-6010
(305) 289-6013 FAX

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 11, 1998
TO: Eddie Castro, Fire Rescue Director
FROM: Joe London, Fire Marshal
SUBJECT: BUNKER GEAR SPECIFICATIONS

As per your direction, I am providing you with the specifications and rationale for the continued use of the existing bunker gear the county fire service is currently using from Morning Pride, Inc.

As you are aware, our tropical environment along with the rescue and emergency duties of our firefighters require personal protection gear that has the utmost flexibility, durability, as well as mobility and comfort for heat stress management, while maintaining minimum standards for hazard exposure protection. The Morning Pride "tail-coat" type of bunker gear is a shorter coat in the front, thus reducing the weight and increasing the mobility needed to perform the required duties, to be worn with regular waist length bunker pants. Morning Pride's "tail-coat" version is the only manufacturer under patent that provides this type of coat. The other alternative is a short coat, no tail, with a long bib-style bunker pant that come up high on the chest, increasing the weight of the pant, and decreasing flexibility. All short coats, (no "tail"), on the market manufactured by other companies require bib pants to comply with the minimum standards set by NFPA, however, the Morning Pride "tail-coat" can be worn with bib or regular waist bunker pants and still comply with NFPA standards, increasing adaptability.

The Monroe County Fire Chief's Association, (the official advisory group to the Fire Rescue Services of the Division of Public Safety), and the Fire Marshal's Office, was directed by the County Administrator, Tom Brown, and the Board of County Commissioners, fiscal year 1989-1990, to standardize our fire service equipment. The MCFCFA performed a lengthy and diligent evaluation of several leading manufactures of different types of bunker gear. The outcome was the Morning Pride tail-coat version of bunker gear, which best met the minimum requirements and far exceeded the features of the other types of gear. The County firefighters have been utilizing this tail-coat version bunker gear for over seven years with excellent success as it is highly adaptable to our tropical environment and unique fire service requirements.

It is my recommendation that we continue to use the tail-coat version bunker gear manufactured by Morning Pride, Inc., unless the Monroe County Fire Chiefs Association votes to change the type of bunker gear used by the fire service. If you have any further questions, or I can provide additional clarification, please contact me at your convenience.

Cc: Randy Mearns, President, MCFCFA

MPBunkerGear298WW3/Fire Rescue/MW7.0

MONROE COUNTY
FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
8900 OVERSEAS HIGHWAY
MARATHON, FLORIDA 33050
743-5266 289-9834 (FAX)


M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: February 10, 1998

TO: Eddie Castro, Fire Rescue Director

FROM: Randall Mearns, President

RE: Bunker Gear



Per your request the Chief's Association revisited the issue of bunker gear at last night's meeting. After some discussion, the Chiefs voted unanimously to continue with the existing bunker gear program. Listed below please find a brief summary of the justifications for that decision.

- 1) A little over five years ago, the Chief's Association embarked on a thorough investigation of the various types of bunker gear available. After nearly a year's worth of investigation and testing, it was decided that the "tail-coat" type of bunker gear was the best type of gear to facilitate protection required by the NFPA while minimizing the effects of our tropical heat on the firefighter.
- 2) The design utilizes a coat which is cut shorter in the front thus providing greater mobility and a lighter overall weight, however the coat is not cut so short as to require the use of bib-type pants (which most other manufacturers require).
- 3) Since we have purchased this type and brand of gear for many years, most of the bunker gear used by the fire departments through out the county is of this type and brand. Switching to another type at this time would certainly not be cost effective. Many of our people are younger people who are still growing (primarily around the waistline). They frequently need to change the size of a single piece of their gear. If we were to change types, these people would need complete new sets of gear which would cost more money.
- 4) During the time this gear has been in use, the equipment has proven to provide the firefighter with the utmost protection and the least amount of fatigue and stress from the

elements of our tropical environment. The equipment has proven to be very durable with only minor failures of fasteners, velcro, kneepads, etc. These minor repairs have been and will continue to be repaired by the manufacturer at no cost to the county.

5) It is not our intention to single out any manufacturer of bunker gear, however we are absolute in our desire to continue to offer our firefighters the best gear that we feel is available to them to protect them from the severe environment of firefighting while offering a comfort level that maximizes their efforts and minimizes the effects of the Florida Keys sun. It is our understanding that Maorning Pride is the only company currently manufacturing this style of gear.

I would ask you to also refer to William Wagner's memo of 02/05/98 regarding the bunker gear as it goes a little deeper into the technical design and benefits of the gear we currently use. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR Jack London, District 2
MAYOR PRO TEM Wilhelmina Harvey, District 1
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Shirley Freeman, District 3
Mary Kay Reich, District 5

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
Marathon Gov't Annex Bldg.
490 - 63rd St., Ocean, Ste. 162
Marathon, FL 33050
(305) 289-6020
(305) 289-6013 FAX

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 8, 1997
TO: James Roberts, County Administrator
THRU: James R. Paros, Director, Public Safety Division
FROM: Eddie Castro, Fire-Rescue Coordinator *ECC*
SUBJECT: SOLE SOURCE EXCLUSION: SAFETY EQUIP. CO., (MORNING PRIDE BUNKER GEAR)

The Fire-Rescue Dept. is requesting authorization to purchase Monroe County Fire-Rescue bunker gear exclusively through Safety Equipment Company, as sole source provider, who is the only authorized distributor for Morning Pride Mfg. Co. bunker gear for the State of Florida, please refer to attached letter from Morning Pride Mfg. Co. The Safety Equipment Co. is a standard vendor on the Fire-Rescue purchasing bid list, which has expired and is currently in process of being redone. It should be noted that Monroe County standardized to this type of bunker gear eight years ago, and has previously established Safety Equipment Co. as the sole source of Morning Pride bunker gear, this should be on record in the Purchasing Department.

At this time, the Fire-Rescue Dept. is in need of purchasing 20 sets of bunker gear, the cost of which will be under \$25,000.00, (the next price increase is scheduled for January or February 1998), therefore it is imperative that the purchase be made before the end of December 1997 to lock in the current price quote, please refer to attached quotation. Please provide instruction as how to proceed with the purchase, i.e., a Request To Purchase for sole source vendor, or a standard computer purchase request through the AS400?

If you have any additional questions, or we can be of further assistance, please contact our office. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Cc: John Carter, Director, OMB
Lisa Cherry, Sr. Buyer, Purchasing
Wally Romero, Supply/Maint. Coord., Fire-Rescue

SafetyEquip-MorningPridesourcesource/mw7.0

F I S H E R S C I E N T I F I C
Q U O T A T I O N

DECEMBER 22, 2003

PAGE: 1

MONROE COUNTY FIRE DEPART
490 63 STREET, SUITE 160
FIRE MARSHALLSFISHER SCIENTIFIC COMPANY LLC
6507 N. HARNEY ROAD
TAMPA FL 33610

MARATHON

FL 33050

(800) 226-1126

CUST REF NBR QT/ GEAR HED TO TOE

ACCOUNT NBR: 816079-001
QUOTE NBR: 3356-2740-97
TERMS: NET 30 DAYS
DUE DATE:REQUESTOR: PETER LUBERT
PHONE: 0000000000
FOB: DEST
AUTHORIZED BY: MARY COOK*** PRICES ARE FIRM THRU 01/21/04 ***
PLEASE REFER TO THE QUOTE NBR ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE
THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN FISHER SCIENTIFIC COMPANY LLC
SAFETY REP: CARTER HALL

NBR	QTY	UN	CATALOG NBR	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRC	EXTD PRC
1	1	EA	NON-CATALOG	BPR2512 TAILS GLDN BROWN VNDR NBR = 0061647 VNDR CAT NBR = FLMORR00033		737.34
2	1	EA	NON-CATALOG	BPR2512 PANTS GLDN BROWN VNDR NBR = 0061647 VNDR CAT NBR = BPR2512		505.63
3	1	PR	19 814 595	BOOT FIRE INSUL, KEVLAR MED 10M		98.10
4	1	PR	19 821 487	GLV PIGSKIN GAUNT PORELLE NFPA		34.16
5	1	EA	19 814 952	NOMEX HOOD, FACE & CHEST		24.25
6	1	EA	19 815 139	HDO LF PLUS UNV YELLOW WNTR LN		100.96
7	1	EA	19 814 937	SUSPENDER DLX DYNA-BACK BL&RED		23.00
				MERCHANDISE TOTAL		1,523.44

FAX: 305-289-6336



BOCC & BOG
APRIL 21, 2004

Date: ~~March 9, 2004~~

Approved

By:

Account #: 12500 530 520

11500 530 520 13001 530 520

Grant/Project #:

QTY.	Unit	Prod.#	Description	Unit Cost	Total Cost
61	ea		Bunker Coats	\$ 737.34	\$ 44,977.74
61	ea		Bunker Pants	\$ 505.63	\$ 30,843.43
				\$ -	\$ -
			11500 530 520	\$ 44,401.17	\$ -
			13001 530 520	\$ 17,500.00	\$ -
			12500 530 520	\$ 13,920.00	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
				\$ -	\$ -
			TOTAL	\$	75,821.17

Vendor #:

County PO #: _____

Date Ordered: